

**MINUTES OF THE 2,318th  
REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD  
MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS  
AND OFFICERS OF THE WINNETKA  
PARK DISTRICT, WINNETKA, IL  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2016**

President Brad McLane called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Commissioners present: Gerri Kahnweiler, Ian Larkin, Brad McLane and John Thomas. Commissioner Teresa Claybrook arrived at 6:55. Commissioners absent: Mickey Archambault and John Peterson. Staff present: Robert Smith, Executive Director; Bob Farmer, Chief Financial Officer; John Muno, Superintendent of Facilities; Costa Kutulas, Superintendent of Parks; Mary Cherveney, Communication/Marketing Manager; John Shea, Superintendent of Recreation; and Libby Baker, Administrative Manager/Safety Coordinator. Visitors: See sign in sheet.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

President McLane informed the Board and staff that Agenda item #4 – Remarks from Visitors, would be moved to immediately follow item #8a – Review of Lakefront Master Plan.

**APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS**

The Board was presented with the Voucher List for January 2016. Following questions and discussion, Commissioner Thomas made a motion to approve the vouchers in the amount of \$853,029.35. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kahnweiler and a roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Larkin, Kahnweiler, Thomas and McLane. Nays: None. Absent: Archambault, Claybrook and Peterson. **Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Thomas made a motion to combine the Regular Board minutes of December 17, 2015, the Executive Session minutes of December 17, 2015 and the Committee of the Whole minutes of January 14, 2016 into a consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Larkin and roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Kahnweiler, Larkin, Thomas, and McLane. Nays: None. Absent: Archambault, Claybrook and Peterson. **Motion carried.**

Commissioner Thomas made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Larkin and passed by a voice vote. **Motion carried.**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Lakefront Master Plan Draft Report**

Scott Freres of Lakota Group, LLC recognized the team of Sarah White and Don Matthews and introduced Warren James and Joe Dooley as the co-chairs of the Lakefront Advisory Committee. Mr. James and Mr. Dooley shared their perspective on the planning process and the final draft report. Mr. Freres gave an overview of the planning process, including community engagement

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and input. The key themes of community input are land use, access, facilities, boating, programs, and concessions. Key recommendations include long and short term initiatives – such as capital development, programming, maintenance and operations, grant processes, time lines, and prioritized initiatives. The long term vision of each plan has been vetted and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources has acknowledged that the projects meet the guidelines for the permit process. Mr. Freres explained that the next steps are to receive public comment, create an Executive Summary, and present a final edited version for approval by the Park Board. He stressed that the master plan is a document to give guidance to the Board and staff for the future. Mr. Freres also explained the designation and make-up of the steering committee members, and described their involvement.

### **REMARKS FROM VISITORS**

President McLane addressed the audience and welcomed visitor comments.

Deb Guillod - Inquired if there are bottom line costs associated with the improvements per beach. Ms. Guillod also expressed her opinion of the importance and value of the dog beach in the community and hopes it will not be eliminated. Mr. Freres explained that budget ranges have been established but not a total. He also explained that many of the potential projects are very large in scope and cost and won't be identified until after the plan is approved. Mr. James shared that the committee tried to prioritize projects in a sensible order of completion. Mr. Freres stated that the plan does not include changes to the current dog beach but in the future the Park District may investigate other opportunities for dog since some dog owners have expressed a preference for a dog run area.

Krisia Miller has an interest in the north end of Tower Rd. Beach – She objects to the cove-like structures and does not want a walkway. Ms. Miller also expressed her dissatisfaction with the Lloyd area. Mr. Freres responded that the committee did listen to the public's comment and heard the concerns. All information was shared with the engineers and the plan takes into consideration the need to match the character of the lakefront as well as the safety and erosion issues.

Zosia Schur has participated in many of the public meetings and finds it interesting that the group opposed to break walls at Tower Rd. Beach is not getting the same attention as the vocal dog owners. Mr. James explained that water fluctuation plays an important role. Ms. Schur asked how the community will be informed of the plan and how will residents be able to express their concerns and provide additional input. Staff explained that the report will be part of the Lakefront Master Plan 2030 website and this will be communicated to the community through various means. Mr. James noted that this report is still just a draft. Ms. Schur asked for clarification on the grant process that was discussed earlier. Staff explained that funding is available and grant applications are being finalized to request funds for the planning of bluff restoration throughout all the properties, signage, and better access for a variety of users at Lloyd.

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Emily Ciaglo asked for additional information about Maple Beach. Mr. Freres describe the possible low impact plans for Maple, including pier restoration, improved seating, clearing of the bluff, increased wildlife habitat spaces and increased parking. Ms. Ciaglo would like to see before and after pictures to see how the beaches will be changed and to get a better understanding of what the plan involves. Mr. Freres described some of the major changes, specifically the goal to improve the view of the lake.

Ms. Guillod inquired about the makeup of the breakwater walls. Mr. Freres explained that the material is a natural stone that can withstand the force of the wave action.

Ms. Ciaglo asked for clarification on the use of the area between Centennial and Elder. Mr. Freres described the long term vision for use of the area which includes non-motorized water sports, swimming and an events area at the southern end of the beach properties. He stressed that it is a long term vision.

Ms. Schur asked why paddle board rentals are not available at Tower Rd. Beach. Mr. Freres stated that Tower is a dedicated swimming beach for swimmer safety.

Ms. Ciaglo asked for clarification on the final approval process that will take place on February 25. Mr. Freres explained that it means that the Board has reviewed, discussed and deliberated on the plan and will adopt it as a living document. Public input is still encouraged. It does not mean that each of the initiatives will be undertaken. The Lakefront Master Plan is a guide to give direction to the Board and staff. The community will have opportunities for input when projects are identified. President McLane thanked the committee and the professional staff involved.

### **Hubbard Woods**

Superintendent Kutulas reported on the progress at Hubbard Woods Park. The Oversight Committee asked him to provide an update on the construction schedule. Parts of the project are on hold due to the cold weather. Work will continue as temperatures allow. The project is currently trending to come in below budget. The permitting process with the Village delayed the project a few months. Commissioner Kahnweiler remarked that staff should be cautious when estimating completion dates. Commissioner Larkin asked about possible programs for the park. Superintendent Shea noted that staff is looking to expand programming at Hubbard Woods. He has been meeting with various groups to offer additional creative programming opportunities for all ages.

### **Strategic Plan - Community Survey**

Director Smith noted that based on feedback from the Board, major changes have been incorporated in to this draft version of the Community Survey. Director Smith described the tentative timeline and method of deployment. The Board expressed their desire to have each household have the ability to complete two surveys.

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### **Bikeway Master Plan**

Commissioner Larkin made a motion to approve the Bikeway Master Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kahnweiler and a roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Claybrook, Kahnweiler, Larkin, Thomas, and McLane. Absent: Archambault, and Peterson. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

### **Golf Course – Land Use Analysis**

No report

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **School District 36 Land Use Request**

Commissioner Claybrook made a motion to approve the land use request from School District 36 and to direct staff to develop and execute the appropriate documents for a land lease not to exceed more than 50 months in duration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kahnweiler and a roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Claybrook, Kahnweiler, Larkin, Thomas, and McLane. Absent: Archambault, and Peterson. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

### **Resolution #16-01-21 – 457 Plan**

Chief Financial Officer Bob Farmer explained that the 457 Plan is similar to a 401K and there is no cost to the Park District. Employees contribute pre-tax, through payroll deductions. The purpose of the resolution is to comply with IRS regulations requiring periodic re-approval of the plan document through a resolution. Following questions and discussion, Commissioner Claybrook made a motion to approve Resolution #16-01-21, adopting the amended 457 Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and a roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Claybrook, Kahnweiler, Larkin, Thomas, and McLane. Absent: Archambault, and Peterson. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

## **MATTERS OF THE DIRECTOR**

- Arthur Nielsen Sr. is being inducted into the United States Tennis Association Hall of Fame. The Park District has been invited to attend the event. The Board has been invited along with staff from the A.C. Nielsen Tennis Center. The invitation will also be extended to Tad Eckert who recently made a donation to the Winnetka Parks Foundation for renovations at the tennis center.
- Director Smith met again with District 36 administrators to work out the final details of the intergovernmental agreement. It needs to be reviewed by legal counsel and then will be presented to the Board for final approval.
- The Village, along with Strand Engineering will be hosting a storm water management presentation this evening and Saturday, January 23. Director Smith will attend on Saturday.
- The Director and staff will be attending the annual IPRA Conference January 28-30.

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### **BOARD LIAISON REPORTS**

- Planning Commission - Commissioner Thomas reported on the last Commission meeting.
- Downtown Master Plan – Commissioner Larkin recommended that Board members visit the steering committee website for additional information.
- Winnetka Parks Foundation – the next meeting will be Monday, January 25.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

Superintendent Kutulas updated the Board on the status of the outdoor ice. He also informed the Board that Nels Johnson Tree Service has been contracted to remove dead ash trees from along the lakefront. The community has been notified through signage and the website. Commissioner Kahnweiler congratulated staff on the success of the middle school ski trip and the yoga program.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Kahnweiler made a motion to enter Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss:

- To consider information regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. 5ILCS 120/2(c) (1)

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and a roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Claybrook, Kahnweiler, Larkin, Thomas and McLane. Nays: None. Absent: Archambault and Peterson. **Motion carried.**

### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION/ACTION**

Commissioner Larkin made a motion to return to open session at 9:12 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Claybrook and a roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Claybrook, Kahnweiler, Larkin, Thomas and McLane. Nays: None. Absent: Archambault and Peterson. **Motion carried.**

No action was taken during Executive Session.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Larkin made a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting at 9:15 pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and passed by a voice vote. **Motion carried.**

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Brad McLane, Board President

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Robert Smith, Board Secretary